



UNITED STATES SENATOR

# JOHN EDWARDS

*An Independent Voice for North Carolina*

## B I O G R A P H Y

Sworn into office on January 6, 1999, Senator John Edwards has emerged as a champion for issues affecting the daily lives of regular people in North Carolina and the nation.

Senator Edwards was a chief sponsor of the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act, strong and far-reaching patient protection legislation that passed the Senate in 2001.

Senator Edwards's bipartisan accomplishments also include a major investment in America's public schools, strong antiterrorism measures, modernization of the nation's banking system, and sweeping campaign finance reform.

*The News & Observer* of Raleigh described Senator Edwards as "smart, disciplined, [and] hard-working" with "a down-home manner." *The Wall Street Journal* called him a senator who "impresses colleagues in behind-doors deliberations." *The Washington Post* said Senator Edwards has "the ability to think on his feet...master complex issues and...communicate in plain language to ordinary people."

Senator Edwards serves on five committees: Commerce, Science and Transportation; Health, Education, Labor and Pensions; Intelligence; Judiciary; and Small Business.

As part of his commitment to North Carolina, Senator Edwards has been to all 100 counties in the state, from Murphy (where he went to a college) to Manteo (where he honored Andy Griffith). Every week that the Senate is in session, he hosts Tar Heel Thursday, town-hall style meetings open to all North Carolinians visiting Washington.

Born in 1953, Senator Edwards grew up in Robbins, a small town in the Piedmont. His father, Wallace, worked in textile mills for 36 years. His mother, Bobbie, ran a small furniture refinishing shop.

A product of North Carolina public schools, Senator Edwards was the first person in his family to go to college. He worked his way through North Carolina State University and graduated with an honors degree in textiles in 1974. He earned a law degree with honors in 1977 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

He met his wife, Elizabeth, when both were law school students at Chapel Hill. They married in 1977, and have had four children. Their first child, Wade, died in 1996. Their eldest daughter, Catharine, is a student at Princeton University. The Edwards household also includes a 4-year-old daughter, Emma Claire, and a 2-year-old son, Jack.

### BIOGRAPHICAL FACTS:

NAME: John Edwards

BORN: June 10, 1953

ELECTED: November 3, 1998

FAMILY: Married Elizabeth Anania Edwards in 1977: daughters, Catharine and Emma Claire; sons, Wade (1979-1996) and Jack

RELIGION: Methodist

EDUCATION: North Carolina State University  
BS with honors 1974;  
University of North Carolina at  
Chapel Hill, JD with honors  
1977

PARENTS: Bobbie and Wallace Edwards

RESIDENCE: Raleigh, NC